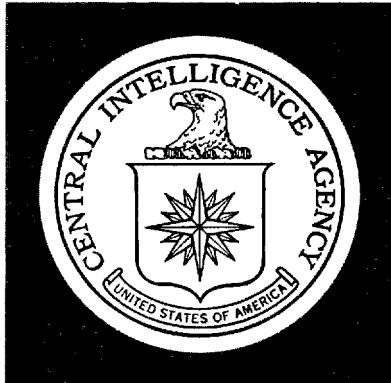


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West Germany: The decision not to revalue the deutschemark has placed a heavy strain on the governing coalition in Bonn.

The West German cabinet, which met on 9 May, split along party lines, with the Social Democrats favoring a revaluation and the Christian Democrats opposing such a move.

Economics Minister Schiller, a Social Democrat, reportedly refused to preside over the economics sub-cabinet group that has been charged with the task of working out alternative measures to revaluation. There are no further indications at this time that the Social Democrats might risk a government crisis over the monetary issue.

The political atmosphere is volatile, however, in part because the major Bonn leaders have their eyes focused on the national election next September. The Christian Democrats believe that a refusal to revalue increases their chances for victory. A public opinion poll has shown 87 percent opposed to revaluation.

If the flight to the mark continues, tensions between the coalition partners are likely to build. Revaluation is still possible soon.

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